

## The Times-Dispatch

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TUESDAY FEBRUARY 24, 1914.

## WHY NEGLECT OUR CONSUMPTIVES?

The most surprising feature of a measure that has much to commend it is the omission from the House appropriation bill of any allowance for the care of colored consumptives.

We feel sure that this omission must be due to a lack of precise information on the subject—a lack of acquaintance with what is one of our most needy classes. Last year there died in Virginia more than 3,100 victims of consumption of the lungs. Of this number 1,400 were white and 1,700 were colored. The rate among the former was high enough, in all conscience, but the negro rate nothing less than appalling. So far as we have been able to note, this rate has never been equaled, except among the American Indians, and for a civilized country it is almost unbelievable.

If there are in the General Assembly any who will do nothing for the relief of negroes merely because they are negroes—and we believe there are no such representatives in the Assembly—gathered on the bill—there is one argument that should convince even these that the opening of a tuberculosis sanatorium for needy colored consumptives is a prime measure of self-protection. In our society, the negroes are the servant class. They wash our clothes and keep them for a week in their houses; they cook our meals; they care for our children; they wash our dishes; they make our beds. They occupy a position where they come into intimate daily contact with a large percentage of our population. Inevitably, if they are consumptive, they scatter the germs of disease and infect those for whom they labor. Unless we care for them, we may expect the white death-rate from tuberculosis to be raised rather than lowered, despite all we may do in our warfare on consumption.

The State Board of Health, appreciating at once the responsibility of the Commonwealth for the care of its negroes and the necessity of action for the protection of the dominant race, has asked for an appropriation of \$20,000 for the year for the erection and maintenance of a sanatorium for advanced indigent colored consumptives. The Senate Finance Committee—wrongfully in our judgment—saw fit to reduce this to \$10,000 the year; the House committee, for no other reason that we can imagine except that indicated, failed to include the item in their report.

As much as we dislike to urge changes in the appropriation bill when the committee has worked so earnestly to shape a model measure, we feel constrained by the need of the situation to plead that the Senate item be included in the House bill. Neglect of our colored consumptives will be paid for in a fearful cost.

## THE POLICE AND THEIR BELTS.

From The Times-Dispatch, of December 24, 1912.

There can be no denying the fact that if Richmond could be a force of picture-book police, the belts should be a part of their uniform. They are somewhat attractive, and they give most of the men a well-groomed, disciplined appearance. But Richmond wants her police for use, and not for beauty. In such a case, the belts are a handicap to the men. They are heavy; they are cumbersome; and, worse still, they place the officers at a serious disadvantage in fights. If, then, more serious is the fact that a policeman cannot draw his revolver quickly with the belt about his waist. If, then, this new addition to the equipment be burdensome and worse than useless, why continue it?

From The News Leader of February 25, 1914.

Folkes was seriously handicapped in drawing his revolver and defending himself from the negro's attack by having to unbutton a cumbersome belt which policeman were recently required to wear.

"I would have got my man but for this damned belt," Folkes complained when he was carried into the station-house after the shooting.

**DR. LAVENDER.**

The distinguished scientist whom the State Board of Health, the Medical Society of Virginia and the Richmond Academy of Medicine entertain to-day is a Virginian of whose achievements the Mother State is proud.

Dr. Claude H. Lavender was a "Lynchburg boy" in the days when Carter Glass was a youngster, when Robert Owen was still youthful, and when more than one scientist of note played along the hill above Blackwater Creek. Leaving his home town and entering the United States Public Health Service, he was the first American to diagnose pellagra. It has largely been through his efforts that the people of the South have come to appreciate the menace of this disease; it has chiefly been by his lectures and writings that the nature and course of pellagra are familiar to students.

Virginians hope that when the cause of this scourge is found and a cure discovered that Claude Lavender will be the man who makes the conquest.

## TO IMPROVE THE PRIMARY BILLS.

The little flurry in the House yesterday over the Cox resolution, calling for amendments to the committee primary bill, was significant only in that it showed the purpose of the members to enact the best primary law they can devise. None who knows Speaker Cox will read into his resolution any desire to dictate to the committee; none who knows Judge Martin Williams will fancy for a moment that he will harbor a grudge for what he regarded at the time as a reflection upon his committee. When Delegate Land, chairman of the subcommittee that drafted the bill, poured oil on the troubled waters by announcing that he had already waited upon the Governor and had requested a conference on amendments to the bill, the excitement died away and the House dismissed the subject with the assurance that whatever is lacking in the bill will be supplied.

What these amendments should be is an involved question which, with the indulgence of our readers, we shall discuss in detail from time to time. But the real purpose of all suggested changes we can explain in a word. They are necessary, not to safeguard the honesty of elections, but to perfect the primary system. Under the terms of the committee bill—and it gives us pleasure to state the fact—there will be little or no opportunity for fraud. But the bill is lacking in one or two essentials and, in addition, speaks such an earnest purpose that it should be rounded out with amendments that will make it the equal of any primary law in the country. This we believe the House intends to do; this we hope the Senate can be prevailed upon to approve; this the Governor has urged in a message that leaves little to be desired.

To take up the first four of the Governor's recommendations in their bearing upon the pending bill, it will be found that his plea for the conduct of the primary by regular election officials seems to be adequately met by section 4 of the bill. This provides that the "primaries shall be held by three judges appointed by the electoral boards of the respective cities and counties of the State, upon application by the parties desiring to hold a primary under this law . . . provided that if two or more political parties shall desire to hold a primary at the same time, then the said judges of election shall be appointed by said electoral boards, under the provisions of the general law in force at the time of such appointment." As the aim of the bill is to hold all primaries at the same time, where possible, this section will operate to put the control of most primaries under the general election laws. These suffice.

The Governor's second recommendation for a board of canvassers for primary elections to State offices will be met by the committee. The omission of such provision, as we understand it, was purely accidental.

The Governor's third recommendation is that "there should be a preferential vote; that is, electors should be permitted to name their first and second choice." As we interpret this, the Governor here commends and urges for adoption the principle of proportional representation, often called the "list system." This undoubtedly is the fairest and surest method of exactly recording the will of the people and, as operated in Denmark, in Switzerland, in New Zealand, in Colorado and in certain American cities, has proved most successful. In no electorate where it has ever been introduced has it been abandoned. While it may seem advanced, it is so simple and so workable that it cannot fail to recommend itself to the Assembly upon investigation.

Governor Stuart's fourth recommendation, that "notice of candidacy ought to be accompanied by a nomination paper signed by a reasonable number of electors belonging to the party of which the candidate is a member," is, to our mind, preferable to the committee proposal (section 5) that the candidate need only file his notice and acknowledge it before some officer or have it attested by two witnesses.

In choosing between the two plans, it must be borne in mind that hitherto as the pending bill provides for a free primary (House bill) or for an assessment of 2 or 2 per cent of the first year's salary (Senate bill), free and self-nominated candidates may become common. There are, we fear, scores of notoriety seekers in Virginia who would nominate themselves for high office and confuse voters at the polls if permitted to enter the primary without expense. But as the committee bill properly aims to make it possible for men of small means to enter the primary, when really solicited to do so, it is obviously against public policy to fix a high entrance fee.

In the circumstances, then, the only way to exclude self-nominated candidates and candidates who may wish to enter the primary from sinister motives is to require the signature of a fair number of qualified voters to the nominating petition. As the committee has very wisely required that no party which polls less than 25 per cent of the State vote is authorized to hold a primary, it seems to us that the committee should invoke the same principle to exclude from the primary those who cannot get in advance the endorsement of a reasonable number of voters.

It seems to us that an amendment requiring the signature to a notice of candidacy of 10 per cent of the voters of the total electorate would be a reasonable provision. This would require the approval of 10 per cent of the voters of the State for the entrance of a gubernatorial candidate, 10 per cent of the voters of a congressional district in the case of a candidate for the House of Representatives, 10 per cent of the county for a delegate to the Assembly and so through the districts.

In adopting this amendment it will, of course, be necessary to choose between the qualified vote and the vote in the last general election as the basis on which the percentage is to be fixed. This amendment we urge not only because it seems to us necessary, but because, in drafting a good primary law, we must take care not to let cranks and egotists discredit it. To other needed amendments we shall later refer.

## CHEER UP!

Wind and rain and snowstorms, causing great destruction of property and some loss of life, are reported from all points West—Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas and even that much lauded land, California. In the last-named State property damages total millions, trains are lost in the mountain passes, hundreds are reported injured, and fear is expressed for the lives of many others. In the Middle West traffic is held up and still more property loss is sustained. In Old Virginia we are having the worst weather of the winter, and worse weather than is usually experienced in this State, but those who are inclined to grumble will have cause for gladness that they live in Virginia rather than in the storm and blizzard-swept States of the Middle West and the Pacific Coast.

Flood in the spring and drought in the summer and in the winter come commonly to other States, but here in the Middle Atlantic, sheltered in winter by the Blue Ridge Mountains and cooled in the summer by the winds from the ocean, we can till our fertile soil and enjoy our prosperity in comfort and without fear of tumbling houses, uprooted trees and howling blizzards. There are worse places than Old Virginia in this land of the free. So why worry about a little snow? Consider the weather of the West and cheer up.

## TO SAVE OUR ARCHIVES.

Few of the minor items of the Senate appropriation bill can accomplish as much good as the \$5,000 allowed for metal cases in which to preserve the manuscripts of the Commonwealth stored in the State Library.

These are the most priceless possession of the State. In them live the great men of our history, those Colonial Governors after whom our counties are named, those Revolutionary heroes whose signatures adorn the textbooks of our school children, those statesmen of peaceful eras who have made the laws and shaped the policy of the nation. More than 1,000 volumes of manuscripts and more than 200,000 separate folios are in the archives of the Commonwealth.

While the present State Librarian and his assistants have done their best to preserve these papers, their hands have been tied for lack of funds. Thousands of manuscripts, more than a century old, some of them about 250 years old, are kept in little paper boxes, so crowded and folded as sometimes to crumble into dust at the touch of the hand; old sheep-bound volumes of Council minutes and executive letter-books are kept in glass-fronted cases, open to light and to heat.

The Sons of the Revolution, always interested in the preservation of Virginia history, have appealed to the Assembly for the appropriation which the Senate has granted, and they have urged that a separate room be set aside exclusively for these papers. The patriotism of the House will not permit this appeal to go unheeded.

## DANGER IN WILD TALK.

The execution or assassination of a British subject by General Villa has increased the gravity of the Mexican situation, but senatorial outbursts will not help matters. Conditions resemble a smoldering volcano, but Jingolistic utterances in Congress will not prevent the impending eruption. Ernest deliberation and discussion and patriotic endeavor must meet the crisis which may soon arise. Wild talk on the part of Senators will work untold harm. Those statesmen who feel themselves bursting with a desire to pour out denunciation upon General Villa and to shed tears over the plight of Mexicans, and to pronounce perfunctory orations over the funeral of the administration's dead hopes for peace, are potential brands, who may plunge this nation into war. Border State Senators, if allowed to echo the demands of hot-headed of an indignant mass-meeting, can cause the death of thousands of Americans. They can light a torch of destruction that will make that carried by the Mexican bandits appear as candles. In a cathedral, Mr. Wilson's policy of "waterproof waiting" may have to be recognized for one more active, but all debate in the Senate should be toward finding a better policy. This is no time for, and the Senate no place for, indignation meetings.

## Voice of the People

**Practical Higher Education for Women.**

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch.

Sir:—There seems to be pretty general unanimity among the thinking part of the people of the State that Virginia needs to make better provision for the higher education of her women. It is entirely one of those questions which have been brought in the shape of bills before the Assembly. Since the War, I wish to adduce a few reasons for giving this measure the most careful consideration.

In the first place, let a preliminary matter be disposed of. The Virginia Board of Education, the class of "Virginia girls," now attending Northern colleges will continue going to the States, and many years more will pass before the famous names of Vassar, Wellesley, Bryn Mawr are attractive, and it is quite the "thing" to go to one of these schools.

## The Rappahannock Rhapsodist

**The Plow.**

Some praise the electric telephone. Some vaunt the dangerous aeroplane. As man's best work, while others own the virtues of the railroad train. Their various claims I'll not allow. Judged by the weight of the plow, Man's best invention is the plow.

The catapult for hurling stone is gone to rest with all its slain. The battering ram is overthrown. Conventions of some mighty brain long dead, how small they seem, and vain.

This was the truth even then as now. Here or upon Assyrian plain, Man's best invention is the plow.

It has the greatest burden known of all the servants in man's train. It plows the furrows in the earth. Cheer and delight the laboring swain. With promises of golden grain. Whatever others may avow, Undoubted, with all its slain, Man's best invention is the plow.

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Since first on earth the curse has lain To make our bread by sweat of brow, From out the earth with toil and pain Man's best invention is the plow. THOMAS LOMAX HUNTER.

## WHAT WAS NEWS FIFTY YEARS AGO

Reprinted from This Newspaper.

**Case of Dr. McChure.**

Dr. William McChure, the man charged with shipping live renegades to the South in cotton boxes, was rounded on Saturday by Confederate States Commissioner . . . He was taken to the Confederate Circuit Court for trial. He is to be tried on two charges of attempting to bribe Confederate officers. The charge of high treason was not sustained, it being shown that the parties whose lives he was trying to get through the hands of the Confederacy were not soldiers of the Confederacy, being unable to give bond in the sum of \$8,000, the doctor was remanded to prison.

**Last Fling of Truce Boat.**

We understand that the flag of truce boat, which arrived at City Point on Sunday, brought up no proposition from the Federal authorities for an exchange of prisoners. A number of passengers came up on the boat, among them twenty-five ladies from Norfolk and Portsmouth, who can no longer stand the horrors of Yankee occupation of those cities.

**News From Portsmouth.**

Distressing news comes from Norfolk and Portsmouth. The Yankees in command now, have issued an order which practically excludes from the city all the colored people of the city. They are to be placed under the control of the provost-marshal of Norfolk and Portsmouth, respectively, who shall see that the colored people are not allowed to enter the city, and substituting in their places men of known loyalty to the United States government. The military or civil authorities of the city are to see that all officers and soldiers, white or colored, at the usual hours of worship, and at other times if deemed by the authorities to be necessary, shall be forced to attend, either by word, look or gesture, the part of the congregation. No property, either public or private, shall be removed from these churches without permission from these headquarters.

Fifty or sixty ladies of Portsmouth have recently been imprisoned, the only charge against them being that they had received letters from friends within the Confederate lines. A Mr. Kemp, a worthy gentleman and a well-known citizen of Portsmouth, has been sentenced to hard labor on the same kind of charge of corresponding with friends within the Confederate lines.

**Notes From the North.**

The Louisville Journal, just published, gives some news notes as follows: A named Henderson, a clerk in the Federal Treasury Department at Washington, is under arrest for stealing \$10,000 from the government. This is regarded as a very small offense in Washington.

Several abolitionists have been arrested in Louisville for kidnapping negroes in the Northwestern States, and then to them into slavery in Kentucky. General Anderson of that State, whose name is dangerous in New York City.

A brother of old John Brown has been appointed "Superintendent of Freedmen in Northern Virginia."

**More Victims Arrested.**

Robert Jackson, a son of General Robert Jackson, of Parkersburg, Va., under arrest in Wheeling, Va., charged with being disloyal to the United States government. No doubt he is guilty, but proud of it.

**Dr. Hoge in Column.**

Rev. Dr. Moses D. Hoge, of this city, is in Columbia, S. C., where he has engagements to deliver his lectures on European travel.

**General Dabney's Reply.**

General Dabney, of Maury, has addressed a letter to the Mayor of Norfolk, in which he offers to aid in settling the non-resident soldiers of the city. General Maury says the city is not prepared to accept the offer, and that the city is not prepared to defend it, and prudence urges them to make delay in so doing.

**The Sixty-Sixth and the War.**

General Sam Jones reports to the War Department that the Sixty-Sixth Virginia Infantry, which is now in the Battery have been re-elected for the war.

**Off to the Coal Mines.**

Forty-two miners, who were yesterday sent to the coal mines, are to be put to work in the coal mines of the State. They are to be put to work in the coal mines of the State. They are to be put to work in the coal mines of the State.

**The Evils of Day.**

In Judge Lyons's court yesterday the grand jury heard a report that, in the investigation of the crimes committed by the city, the grand jury had been irresistibly led to the conclusion that the city is a school of crime and demoralization in the number of licensed and licensed houses, grog shops, etc., with which places, whether of the respectable sort or not, are a curse, and tend greatly to the injury of soldiers and others. They suggest that the city be submitted to the Governor and to the people for such action as may be deemed expedient and proper to abate the evil.

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## EFFECTS OF THE COLD.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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Expansion.

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AT ZERO

AT TEN BELOW

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